

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 IO-14 SAB-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

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R 101423Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9783

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 13988

DEPT PASS AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, XF

SUBJECT: FRENCH GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON ISRAELI-SYRIAN
DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT

REF: (A) PARIS 13767; (B) PARIS 13501

1. ON JUNE 7 QUAI ISRAEL-JORDAN OFFICER BELLEISSUE
RAISED SUBJECT OF FRENCH STATEMENT ON THE ISRAELI-SYRIAN
WITHDRAWAL WITH EMBOFF. BELLEISSUE SAID THAT CONTRARY
TO THE IMPRESSION GIVEN BY PONIATOWSKI (REF A), PRESIDENT
GISCARD D'ESTAING NOT ONLY HAD APPROVED STATEMENT
(REF B), BUT PERSONALLY HAD MADE SOME MINOR CHANGES IN
IT. BELLEISSUE COULD NOT EXPLAIN THE APPARENT CONTRA-
DICTION BETWEEN PONIATOWSKI'S COMMENTS AND THE "FACT"
OF HIGHEST LEVEL APPROVAL OF THE STATEMENT, BUT
COMMENTED THAT PONIATOWSKI'S "WELL-KNOWN PRO-ISRAELI
SENTIMENTS" MIGHT BE INVOLVED. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT IN
HIS VIEW THE ISRAELI AMOASSADOR HAD NOT HELPED HIS
CAUSE BY CRITICIZING THE FRENCH STATEMENT AT A TIME WHEN
THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS REEXAMINING FRENCH FOREIGN
POLICIES.

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2. COMMENT: BELLEISSUE'S REMARKS TEND TO CONFIRM OUR
BELIEF THAT WHILE KEEPING ITS OPTIONS OPEN AND
MODERATING SOMEWHAT ITS PUBLIC POSTURE ON THE MIDDLE
EAST, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE IS NOT
APT SUBSTANTIALLY TO CHANGE ITS POLICY IN THE REGION.
IRWIN

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